Trading in spurious pesticides

†2900. SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA:
SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that pesticide turnover in the country is touching 6,000 crore rupees per year;

(b) if not, the details thereof;

(c) whether is it also a fact that out of this 1,500 crore rupees worth of spurious pesticides are bought and sold in the market;

(d) if not, the details thereof;

(e) whether Government have any provision to monitor the trade of such spurious pesticides; and

(f) if so, the details of such provision and average quanitiy of spurious pesticides seized every year by means of this provision?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA): (a) and (b) The total output (turnover of persticides and other agrochemical products in 2002-03 was Rs. 7345 crore according to the Annual Survey of Industries (ASI) Report 2002-03, published in June, 2005 by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation.

(c) to (f) There is no authentic report on the quantum of spurious perticides in the Market. However, approximately 3.5 % of the pesticide samples analysed in State Pesticide Testing Laboratories are found to be misbranded. The manufacture and quality of pesticides is regulated under the provisions of the Insecticides Act, 1968 and its Rules . The Registration Committee, constituted under this Act, registers pesticides only after being satisfied of their efficacy. The State Governments then issue licenses for the manufacture and sale of registered pesticides. Quality assurance or pesticides is ensured by the State Governments through regular drawal and analysis of pesticide sample through a network of Insecticides Inspectors, Insecticides Analysis and Pesticides Testing Laboratories. The Act provides for punishment to formulators, manufactures and vendors of spurious and substandard pesticides.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.